UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/547/Add.1
26 March 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 123 and 159

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN ANGOLA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda items 123 and 159 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/52/547.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the items at its 54th and 58th meetings, on 20 and 26 March 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.54 and 58).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/52/799) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/825).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.29

4. At the 58th meeting, on 26 March 1998, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission/Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" (A/C.5/52/L.29), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.29 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, Council resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), Council resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III), Council resolution 1118 (1997) of 30 June 1997, by which the Council decided to establish, as from 1 July 1997, the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1157 (1998) of 20 March 1998,

Recalling its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 52/8 of 31 October 1997,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures of the Mission, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

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[1] A/52/799.

[2] A/52/825.

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Observer Mission by certain Governments,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Observer Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola as at 20 March 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 131,650,352 United States dollars, representing 13 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Verification Mission to the period ending 30 June 1997 and the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 30 April 1998, notes that some 15 per cent of the membership has paid its assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, particularly those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure the payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Observer Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the operational requirements of such posts;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly before the second part of its resumed fifty-second session the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit findings on the

procurement process in the Verification Mission and the report on efforts to recover losses and corrective measures taken, which were requested in paragraph 9 of resolution 52/8;

9. Notes the labour relations difficulties at the Observer Mission and requests the Secretary-General to report on the matter to the General Assembly for its consideration during the second part of its fifty-second resumed session;

10. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola a total amount of 175 million dollars gross (170,741,200 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of 155 million dollars gross (150,371,600 dollars net) already appropriated under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/8;

11. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the additional amount of 20 million dollars gross (20,369,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 among Member States, taking into account the amount of 155 million dollars gross (150,371,600 dollars net) already authorized under the terms of resolution 52/8, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by Assembly resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996, and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994, and the scale of assessments for the year 1998, as set out in resolution 52/215 of 22 December 1997, and subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 30 April 1998;

12. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, shall take into consideration the decrease in their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 369,600 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to keep the items entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission" and "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola" under review during its fifty-second session.